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10/650,407

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Ricky W. Purcell

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EXAMINER

PATEL, TARLA R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3772

NOTIFICATION DATE

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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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USpatents@armstrongteasdale.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/650,407	Applicant(s) PURCELL, RICKY W.	
	Examiner TARLA R. PATEL	Art Unit 3772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/31/08.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,9-13 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,9-13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zhang et al. (5,658,583) in view of Usui (5,879,378) further in view of Ingram (5,366,491).

Zhang et al. discloses a heat patch comprising of an enclosure having gas-permeable first layer (26) and second layer (16) bonded together, where in gas permeable first layer includes an inner surface and an outer surface (see fig 1), wherein the entire first layer is gas-permeable (column 6 lines 9-20) and a heating composition (28) is located inside the enclosure, which generates heat (column 6 lines 22-28) when a gas is received through first layer. A gas-permeable cover (31) is detachably mounted to said outer surface of first layer (column 6 lines 16-20).

With respect to claim 2, Zhang et al. discloses heat patch include heating composition that comprise iron powder, carbon (reaction promoter), water retaining agent, chloride (salt) and water (column 4 lines 1-4).

With respect to claim 4, Zhang et al. discloses first layer is polyethylene (column 4 lines 5-7).

Art Unit: 3772

With respect to claim 7, Zhang et al. discloses a heat patch comprising a heating composition that is capable of generating heat when air is passed through first layer (column 6 lines 22-28).

However, Zhang et al. does not disclose that the gas-permeable first layer is bonded to a perimeter of second layer.

However, Usui teaches an exothermic device and an application pad using the same having first layer (6) is bonded to a perimeter of second layer (5, see figs 1 and 3, see column 23 lines 54-63). at the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the first layer of the Zhang et al.'s device to bond to a perimeter of second layer of the device, as taught by Usui to form continuous surface and to better seal the whole device to avoid any exposure to excess air.

Zhang et al. substantially discloses the invention as claimed, further, Zhang et al. discloses a heat patch gas-impermeable cover includes a plurality of portions (31 shown in figure 1 shown to be detachably attached as disclosed in column 11, lines 7-11 that lid adjustable by rotationally or linearly slidable is interpreted as detachable) detachably mounted to outer surface of gas-permeable first layer (column 11, lines 7-11). However, Zhang et al. does not disclose a heat patch having plurality of portions with information related to heat generated by the heat patch when one or more portions is removed from the first layer.

However, Ingram discloses a heat patch with temperature indicating means (20) that includes a liquid crystal temperature-indicating strip (22), which indicates the

temperature of the skin (column 4 lines 1-13). At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the heat patch of Zhang et al. to replace lid/cover with the temperature indicating strip of the Ingram's heat patch to allow monitoring the use of the heat patch for therapeutic level without damaging the user's skin with higher temperature and an important novel feature of Zhang et al.'s invention to have the capacity to heat and regulate skin temperature to a desired and elevated, narrow range for a sufficient length of time and it is also desirable to be able to vary heating temperature after activation. Further, with respect to limitation of "and wherein at least one of plurality of portions includes information related to heat generated by the heat patch **when one or more of plurality of portions removed from said gas-permeable first layer**" has been treated as an intended use recitation. It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987). Since the limitation have not been positively claimed, it is obvious that the device of Zhang et al. and Ingram can be used as required by claim.

With respect to claims 5-6, Zhang et al. and Ingram substantially disclose the invention, see rejection to claim 1 above; however, Zhang et al. and Ingram does not discloses a heat patch having a second layer and cover each being made of polyethylene film. However, Usui teaches a heat patch having gas permeable first and second layers made of polyethylene film (column 5 lines 18-24). At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the heat patch of

Art Unit: 3772

Zhang et al. and Ingram to have polyethylene film second layers to have better flow of air to the composition and more heat to the skin being treated of the user, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

It would have also been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the cover of Zhang et al. and Ingram with polyethylene film as taught by Usui to have better air permeability through it, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

3. Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zhang et al. (5,658,583), Usui (5,879,378) and Ingram further in view of Kuratomi et al. (4,747,841).

Zhang et al. and Usui substantially disclose the invention, see rejection to claim 8 above; however Zhang et al. does not specifically disclose a heat patch having a heating composition that maintains the temperature of second layer about 38°C-40°C, or 40°C-42°C, or 42°C-45°C when composition is exposed to air.

However Kuratomi discloses a heat patch it maintains the temperature of second layer to be at between or about 40°C-45°C when composition is exposed to air (column 2 lines 62-64) by removing sealing plate (14). The disclosed range of 40-45C meets the

claim range limitation of claim 9-11, since it overlaps in at least part of each range. At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the heat patch of Zhang et al. to use Kuratomi's teaching of maintaining the temperature of second layer about 40-45 degree centigrade when the membrane is exposed to air (gas) to be able to reach desirable temperature to allow more customize treatment of individual by the heat patch.

With respect to claim 12, Zhang et al. discloses plurality of portions (column 11, lines 7-12). Zhang et al. further disclose a few small pieces of tape (31) to peel off and cover opening (26) to regulate the airflow is equivalent to required plurality of portions including strips.

4. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang et al., Usui and Ingram, further in view of Watson, Jr. (5,692,238).

Zhang et al., Usui and Ingram substantially disclose the invention, please see rejection to claims 1-2, 4-7; however Zhang et al., Usui and Ingram do not disclose a heat patch having at least some of plurality of portions that are different colors, where the different colors give information related to heat generated by the patch, when one or more portions are removed from the first layer.

However, Watson, Jr. teaches a body comforter inducing a thermal sensitive indicators, such as sensitive color gauge strips, used to display the packs current effective temperature (abstract). At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to replace the some of strips of the heat patch of Zhang

et al., Usui and Ingram with color gauge strips, which is taught by Watson, Jr. to regulate the temperature of heat pack.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 3/31/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to applicant argument that the teaching, suggestion and motivation is required for obviousness, to that argument is moot. Please rejection above to claim 1 and further as disclosed above that Zhang et al. teaches that it is an important novel feature of Zhang et al.'s invention to have the capacity to heat and regulate skin temperature to a desired and elevated, narrow range for a sufficient length of time and it is also desirable to be able to vary heating temperature after activation. The examiner asserts that it is suggestion of Zhang et al. to regulate the temperature by use of strips 31.

6. With respect to applicant arguments that Zhang et al. do not disclose a cover **formed** of plurality of portions, rather Zhang et al. discloses pieces of tape placed in a convenient place on the device that are removed and subsequently placed over portion of the cover to reduce air flow through the cover, to that the examiner respectfully disagrees. The applicant's invention does not claim the cover formed of plurality of portions, however, claim recites that the cover includes a plurality of portions. Applicant's argument is to cover is formed which require the way cover made. Thus, the claim limitation recites a cover includes a plurality of portion is broadly interpreted by the examiner and Zhang et al.'s tape/lid (31) meets the require claim limitation and further,

Art Unit: 3772

Zhang et al. teaches that the lid are used to regulate the temperature of apparatus in column 11, lines 7-11. Zhang et al. teaches that it is an important novel feature of Zhang et al. s invention to have the capacity to heat and regulate skin temperature to a desired and elevated, narrow range for a sufficient length of time and it is also desirable to be able to vary heating temperature after activation.

7. Further, the argument of portions are **included within the cover** and are removed to expose a portion of the first layer, to that the examiner respectfully disagrees. The argument is more narrow than it is claimed. As described above Zhang et al.'s tape/lid (31) meets the require claim limitation and further, Zhang et al. teaches that the lid are used to regulate the temperature of apparatus in column 11, lines 7-11. Zhang et al. teaches that it is an important novel feature of Zhang et al. s invention to have the capacity to heat and regulate skin temperature to a desired and elevated, narrow range for a sufficient length of time and it is also desirable to be able to vary heating temperature after activation.

8. With respect to applicant's argument that Kuratomi et al. that the Kuratomi et al. discloses pyrogen and temperature, to that the examiner asserts that the Kuratomi et al. is relied upon for teaching of range of temperature and not for the composition of heat pack.

9. With respect to applicant's argument to claim 13, the argument is moot because as recently presented amended claims, claim 13 is cancelled.

10. With respect to applicant's argument to claim 14, the argument is moot. Please see rejection to claim above.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kunamoto (2006/0276863) discloses a warming tool with color change when there is change in the temperature of the pad.

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TARLA R. PATEL whose telephone number is (571)272-3143. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 6-3.30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco can be reached on 571-272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tarla R Patel/
Examiner, Art Unit 3772

/Patricia Bianco/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3772